MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

FARM ADVISER

News Notes from the Field of the Extension Service, Released for Publication Every Two Weeks From the Office of the Director of Extension.

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COUNTY AGENTS ARRANGE FOR NUMEROUS SPRAYING DEMONSTRATIONS

College Park, Md., April 15.

In co-operation with the horticultural specialists of the Extension Service, county agents in every county where they are located are holding spraying demonstrations and issuing directions to orchard owners in their territory. The following spraying program is just being issued to Talbot county growers by the local agent, Mr. E. P. Walls, and contains much valuable information in a concise form. Mr. Walls and other county agents in addition to furnishing such directions are aiming to hold a practical demonstration of these methods in every neighborhood in their counties where such instruction is desired.

PEACH.

First application — Concentrated lime-sulphur, 1-9. Dormant spray, before buds open, for San Jose scale and leaf curl.

Second application—Arsenate of lead 2 lbs., lime 2 lbs., water 50 gals. Just as leaves appesr. For curculio.

Third application—Self-boiled lime-sulphur, 8-8-50, and 2 lbs. Arsenate of lead. Two weeks after second application for scab and late curculio.

Fourth application — Self-boiled lime-sulphur, 8-8-30. About a month before peaches ripen. For brown rot.

For late varieties another spraying with self-boiled lime-sulphur alone may be desirable between the third and fourth applications. For very early varieties the fourth spraying may be left out.

APPLE.

First application — Concentrated lime-sulphur 1-9. Dormant spray, before buds open. For San Jose scale.

Second application — Bordeaux Mixture, 4-5-50. Before blossoms open or just as they begin to show pink. For scab.

Third application—Concentrated lime-sulphur 1-40, and 2 lbs Arsenate of lead. Just as blossoms are falling. For codling moth, curculio and diseases. If plant lice are present add one-half pints "Black Leaf 40." (Very important.)

Fourth application — Bordeaux Mixture, 4-5-50, and 2 lbs. Arsenate of lead. About August 1. For bitter rot, black rot, and late brood codling moth.

One pound powdered Arsenate of lead equals two pounds paste Arsenate of lead.

Treatment for peach will apply to plum. Treatment for apple will apply to pear.

For directions for making above-mentioned mixtures write to the Maryland Experiment Station, College Park, Md., for Bulletin 164.

For more and better fruit, keep and follow these directions. Tell your farming troubles to your County Agent. Help him by letting him help you.

INTERESTING BOYS' AGRICULTURAL CLUB IN CARROLL COUNTY

College Park, Md., April 15.

Reports of meetings of local Boys' Agricultural clubs in many sections of the State have been received by the Demonstration division of the Extension Service during the past week as a result of the activity of the various county agents in co-operating with local teachers in the organization of these clubs during the past two months. These clubs meet as a rule every two weeks or in some cases once a month at the schoolhouse where they carry out an agricultural program under the supervision of their teacher and the county agent. One of the best examples of such a meeting was reported this week from Carroll county by a Boys' Agricultural club recently organized at Mt. Airy, under the direction of Mr. J. K. Smith, the agricultural teacher at the Mt. Airy High school. The report reads as follows: "Our club held its regular meeting last Friday in the laboratory of the high school building, the program being most interesting as well as instructive. Our membership is made up entirely of boys attending the school, the object of our organization as stated in the minutes of our first meeting, being, (1.) to train and encourage us along the lines of country life, (2.) to put in practice the facts of scientific agriculture as we learn them in our agricultural course, taking them back to the farm and letting our parents and neighbors get the benefit of our knowledge, (3.) to broaden his ideas and to give to the boy not on the farm an opportunity to do something along the lines of agriculture.

"Our meeting was called to order by the vice-president. The minutes of the last session were read and approved. The business part of the meeting was then taken up, at which time it was decided that at roll call each member should respond to his name by giving a quotation of an agricultural nature. The program for the next meeting was then read and posted, after which the following program was rendered. The first number was a talk by Paul Walker on "How I grew one-eighth

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COUNTY AGENTS PLANNING FOR DEMONSTRATIONS.

Meetings Being Arranged to Discuss Methods.

College Park, Md., April 15.

In co-operation with the horticultural specialists of the Extension Service, county agents in every county where they are located are holding conferences to outline a definite plan of work in their territory. The following spraying program is just being issued to Talbot county growers by the local agent, Mr. E. R. Walls, and contains much valuable information in a concise form. Mr. Walls and other county agents in addition to conducting such demonstrations are aiding in a practical demonstration of these methods in every neighborhood in their counties where such instruction is desired.

Peach.

First application—Concentrated lime-sulphur, 1-9. Do not use before bud, open, for San Jose scale and leaf-curl.

Second application—Arsenate of lead 2 lbs., lime 2 lbs., water 50 gals. Just as leaves appear, for curculio.

Third application—Self-boiling lime-sulphur, 6-8-50, and 2 lbs. Arsenate of lead. Two weeks after second application for brown rot and late curculio.

Fourth application—Self-boiling lime-sulphur, 6-8-50. About a month before peaches ripen. For brown rot.

For late varieties another spraying with self-boiling lime-sulphur alone may be desirable between the third and fourth applications. For very early varieties the fourth spraying may be left out.

Apple.

First application—Concentrated lime-sulphur, 1-9. Dormant spray, before buds open. For San Jose scale.

Second application—Bordeaux Mixture, 4-5-50. Before blossoms open or just as they begin to show pink. Two sprays.

Third application—Concentrated lime-sulphur, 1-40 or 2 lbs. Arsenate of lead. Just as blossoms are falling. For biting insects. (Over-lapping.)

Fourth application—Bordeaux Mixture, 4-5-50 and 2 lbs. Arsenate of lead. About August 1. For bitter rot, black rot, and late brood codling worm.

One pound paris green to 300 gallons of lime-sulphur will apply to above. Destroy by spray will apply to above.

The directions for making above-mentioned mixtures apply to the Maryland Experiment Station [illegible] Park, Md., for Bul. [illegible]

For more and better fruit, [illegible] and Adams [illegible] Bordeaux [illegible] Bordeaux [illegible] Arsenate [illegible] Bordeaux [illegible] Arsenate [illegible] Bordeaux [illegible] Arsenate

acre of potatoes for the club contest." This talk was well prepared and any farmer would have benefited from hearing it. After the talk, each member had a question to ask and have answered by other members. Two short readings were given from farm papers, one on how to prepare and apply whitewash, and the other on selecting seed potatoes. Another very interesting feature of the program was a report by Earl Mullinix, on a farm which he had visited since our last meeting. In this report he told what he saw going on, at the same time commented on the good features of the farm as he saw them, it being the purpose of such reports to call to the attention of our members the good farming which is being done in our neighborhood.

"The last number of the program was the gathering of the questions from the question box. Each member is expected to ask some question in writing pertaining to agriculture and hand it to the secretary, who reads them before the club for general discussion.

"Mr. J. K. Smith, our agricultural teacher, then expressed his appreciation of the efforts we were making and congratulated us on presenting such a creditable program. We then adjourned for a very pleasant social half hour."

NEWLY HATCHED CHICKS MUST BE PROPERLY HANDLED

College Park, Md., April 17.

In the lessons which he has prepared for the correspondence courses in poultry offered by the Extension Service, Mr. Roy H. Waite of the Maryland Experiment Station, offers the following suggestions regarding the handling of newly hatched chicks:

"Do not be in too much of a hurry to get the young chicks out of the nest. They should be left until they have gained their strength. For some time after hatching they are unable to stand on their feet and until they become active they are better off sitting quietly under the mother hen. Incubator chicks that are to be brooded by hens ought to be given to the hen about the second day after hatching. If kept in the machine too long they sometimes will not accept a hen for a mother. Try out the hen before giving her the chicks. You can do this by giving her one or two for an hour or so to see how she acts. Some broody hens will kill chicks put under them, and others will not accept chicks of certain colors. A great majority, however, will adopt almost any small chicks, if properly handled. Once in a while we will find a hen that will kill chicks hatched by herself, and some, where chicks of two or more colors are hatched, will kill those of a certain color.

Just before the young chick hatches the yolk is absorbed or taken into its body and this serves as a nourishment for two or three days. It, therefore, is bad practice to feed the chicks too quickly. In the first place the young chick is not fitted for digesting and handling its food the first few days, and digestive disorders may be induced by feeding too soon. In the second place the chick already has a supply of food and more only tends to clog its system. Wait until the chick is at least thirty-six hours old before feeding it. Forty-eight hours would probably be better. Then feed some cooked feed, for the chick cannot digest raw starch. Many things can be used. At the Maryland Experiment Station we usually start chicks off with hard-boiled eggs, ground or chopped up with rolled oats. This is given for several days, depending somewhat on how many infertile eggs we have on hand. After that we use finely cracked corn and cracked wheat equal parts, as a scratch feed. Usually chicks with an old hen on free range will require little else in the way of feed. Bread and milk, corn pone, or cottage cheese may be used for the first feeds if they are more easily obtained."

IMPORTANCE OF CULTIVATING THE FARM GARDEN

College Park, Md., April 17.

With the coming of active garden preparations, it cannot be too strongly emphasized that frequent and regular cultivation is a necessity in providing for an adequate table supply and keeping the garden in a presentable condition. The benefits of timely cultivation are explained in the correspondence course in gardening given by the Extension Service and prepared by Prof. E. F. Stoddard, of the Agricultural College. Prof. Stoddard says, in part:

"Just as soon as the seedlings appear sufficiently to mark the row, cultivation should begin to conserve the moisture which has been stored up in the soil. Everyone knows that ground underneath the straw, strawy manure or leaves will remain moist, because the sun's rays and the wind are prevented from drying out the soil rapidly. A soil mulch two to four inches deep accomplishes the same purpose. A soil mulch is properly made by stirring and keeping the surface soil well pulverized. If cultivation is maintained often enough (at least once in every week or ten days, and as soon after rains as possible,) the soil mulch will not become lumpy, but will remain in a fine condition. A well tilled soil, well filled with humus, will drink in the water of rainfall readily and will be less subject to erosion than soils that are not cared for. The mere presence of an abundance of plant food in the soil will not necessarily result in large yields of vegetables. The plant food must be in dilute solution to be used by the plant, hence abundant moisture should be present. Water holds in solution organic acids which are powerful solvents of plant food; water is essential to the life of friendly bacteria, and also serves as a carrier of plant food in the plant. It should also be kept in mind that most vegetables contain 90 per cent or more of water, and that the transpiration of water through the leaves has an important relation to the manufacture of plant food in the leaves by the fixation of carbon in the atmosphere. When commercial fertilizers are used, their value depends upon the amount of water in the soil to make them soluble and available to the plant. When a farmer must depend upon the rainfall to supply all the moisture it is apparent how necessary it is to have a good supply of humus in the soil, for humus aids in absorbing and retaining moisture, especially when a soil mulch is preserved by regular cultivation."

ners of potatoes for the club competition." This talk was well prepared and any farmer would have benefited from hearing it. After the talk, each member had a question to ask and have answered by other members. Two short reading were given from farm papers, one on how to prepare and apply whitewash, and the other on selecting seed potatoes. Another very interesting feature of the program was a report by Earl Hollis, on a farm which he had visited since last meeting. Earl's report included what he saw being done on the farm at the time on the potato crop, some time connected on the good features of the farm as he saw them, it being the purpose of such reports to call to the attention of our members the good farming which is being done in our neighborhood.

"The last number of the program was the reading of the question box from the question box. Each member is expected to ask some question in writing pertaining to agriculture and hand it to the secretary, who reads them before the club for general discussion.

"Mr. J. E. Smith, our agricultural teacher, then expressed his appreciation of the efforts we were making and congratulated us on presenting such a creditable program. We then adjourned for a very pleasant social half hour."

Stewart Morrison enjoys coming to poultry meetings.

College Park, Md., April 7.

In the issue which I am preparing for the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture, I am planning to give a short account of the activities of the boys' and girls' clubs in Prince George's County. I am sure that the boys and girls in the county would be interested in seeing a picture of the club members who have been most active in the work during the past year. Will you please send me a picture of the boys' and girls' club members in your county?

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. C. Byrd,
Director of Extension.

Mr. H. C. Byrd,
Director of Extension,
College Park, Md.

Dear Mr. Byrd:

I am sending you herewith a picture of the Prince George's County Boys' and Girls' Club members who attended the short course at the College last winter. I am sorry that I cannot send you a picture of the boys and girls who are doing the work in the county, but I am sure that you will be interested in seeing a picture of the boys who have been most active in the work during the past year.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. C. Gore,
County Agent.